

**A New Species of *Macrobotus* from Tierra del Fuego
(Tardigrada: Macrobiotidae)**

ROBERT O. SCHUSTER¹

Department of Entomology, University of California, Davis, California 95616.

A new tardigrade from Tierra del Fuego is described in this paper. This species has claws which are sufficiently different from typical *Macrobotus* claws to strongly suggest that it represents an undescribed genus. However, the difference is only an extreme modification of a single character which is normally somewhat variable in other species of *Macrobotus*, and this species is tentatively placed there.

***Macrobotus tridigitus* Schuster, NEW SPECIES**

(Figs. 1, 2)

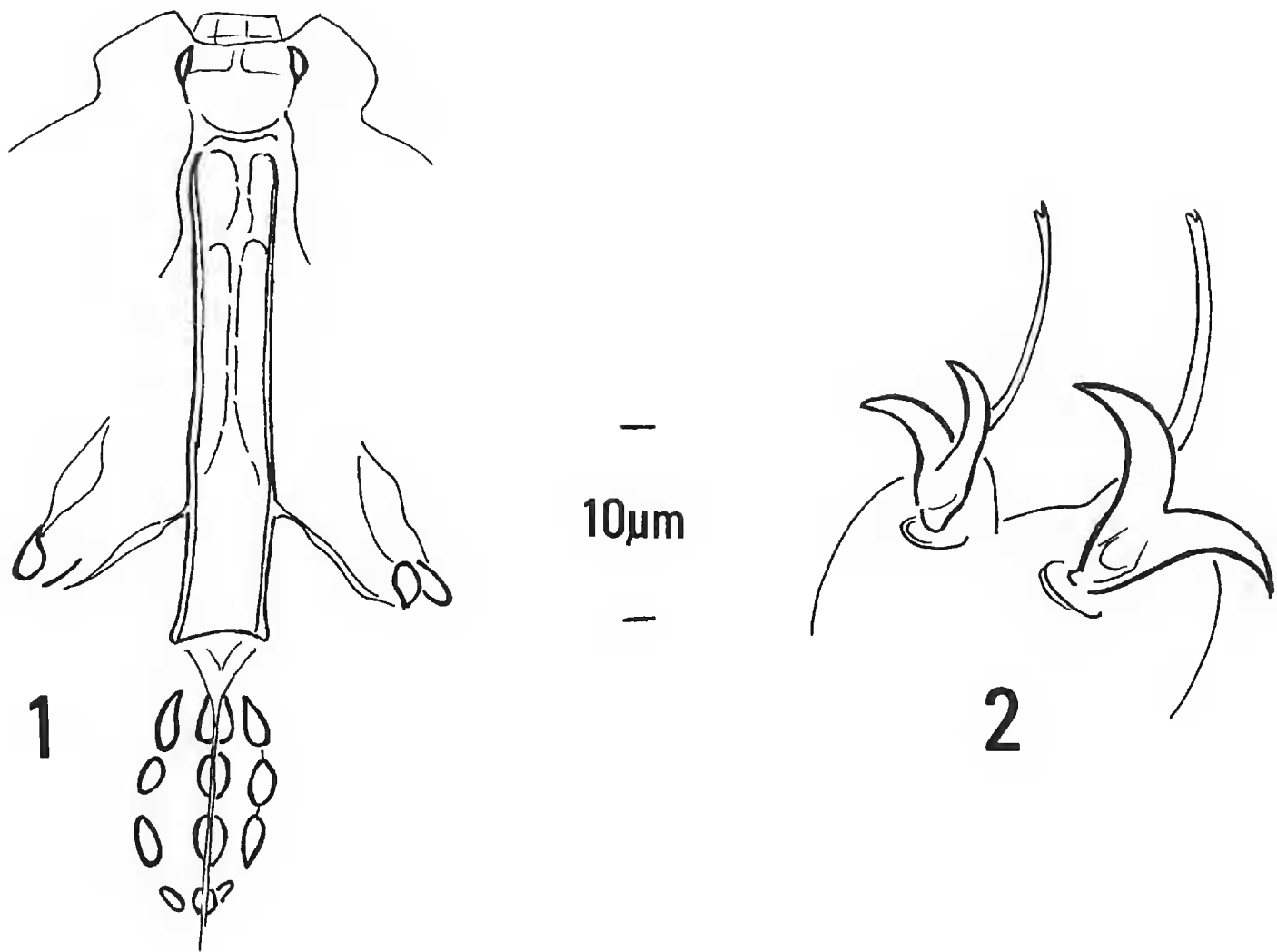
Holotype.—Total length, from extended buccal opening to end of claws IV, 246 μm . Cuticle smooth, pores not evident by phase microscopy. Without eye pigmentation. Buccal apparatus (Fig. 1) 47 μm long; tube including buccal ring 34 μm ; placoid strands 13 μm ; tube with long ventral lamina. Pharynx contains apophyses, 3 macroplacoids with first and third of similar size and perceptibly longer than second, and microplacoid. Claw sequence 2, 1, 1, 2 (Fig. 2), accessory points of primary claw branches very long, not attached along claw margin; lunulae large, without teeth.

Type series.—Holotype and 1 paratype from Sierra Martial, Tierra del Fuego, ARGENTINA, in cryptogams, tree line (2000–2500 feet), I-19-1979, Arthur M. Shapiro. Deposited with the Department of Entomology, University of California, Davis.

Etymology.—Latin; masculine, *tres*, three; *digitus*, finger, descriptive of the claws.

Discussion.—The buccal ring of this species is either longitudinally grooved or completely divided into buccal lamellae but the exact structure cannot be determined from the available specimens. If ten buccal lamellae do exist, the only departure from typical *Macrobotus* species (see Ramazzotti, 1972, and Schuster *et al.*, 1980) is the extreme elongation of the cuticle forming the accessory points of the primary claw branches. Normally the cuticle is attached along the edge of each primary claw branch and terminates in two small, subapical spines. The accessory points of this species terminate as thin cuticular processes that arise at the base of the primary branch, are much longer than the branch, and are not attached to it. These processes seem to be quite inflexible and probably provide some mechanical advantage to locomotion. They do distinguish *M. tridigitus* from all other *Macrobotus*.

¹ I appreciate having the opportunity to participate in this tribute to the systematic contributions by Dr. Richard M. Bohart.



Figs. 1, 2. *Macrobiotus tridigitus*. 1, detail of buccal tube and placoids. 2, claws of leg II.

LITERATURE CITED

- Ramazzotti, G. 1972. Il Phylum Tardigrada. Seconda edizioni aggiornata. Mem. Ist. Ital. Idrobiol. 28:1-732.
- Schuster, R. O., D. R. Nelson, A. A. Grigarick, and D. Christenberry. 1980. Systematic Criteria of the Eutardigrada. Trans. Amer. Micros. Soc. 99:284-303.